

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. A RCE accompanies this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-17 stand rejected.

Claim 1 is currently amended. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 13, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA"). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the AAPA.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part "wherein the second tower segment within its embedded end portion comprises a plurality of separate anchoring elements projecting radially inward from an inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment, the plurality of anchoring elements being fixedly mounted to the inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment and being arranged along an axial direction of the second tower segment to prevent internal force concentrations within the wall of the first tower segment." Applicant respectfully submits that AAPA fails to disclose at least these features of the claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that the element 5 of Figure 5, which the Examiner has interpreted to be an anchoring element, is not an anchoring element. Office Action, page 3. AAPA expressly describes element 5 as being a *reinforcing element* (reinforcement steel) in a concrete tower segment without any pre-stressing elements. Applicant's specification, page 2, lines 21-23, Figure 5. AAPA describes the reinforcing elements as being different from the anchoring elements. See page 2, lines 21-29, and page 8, lines 10-13.

In contrast to amended claim 1, the reinforcing element 5 is not fixedly mounted to the inner surface of the wall of the steel tower segment 3. As such, element 5 of AAPA is not an anchoring element.

In addition, the AAPA describes a **single** flat ring-like element 6, not a plurality of separate anchoring elements. Also, the AAPA expressly illustrates the single flat ring-like

element 6 as being disposed at the bottom of the steel segment 3. *Id.* at page 2, lines 23-29, Figure 5.

In contrast to amended claim 1, the AAPA fails to teach or describe “**a plurality of separate anchoring elements projecting radially inward from an inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment**,” as recited in claim 1, because the AAPA describes a **single** flat ring-like anchoring element 6 that is disposed at one location at the bottom of the steel segment 3. The AAPA fails to teach or describe a **plurality of anchoring elements** being fixedly mounted to the inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment and being arranged along an axial direction of the second tower segment because the single flat ring-like anchoring element is arranged at one location at the bottom of the steel segment 3.

For at least the reasons given above, AAPA fails to teach all the features of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-3, 6-8, 13, and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,272,929 to Hanson (hereinafter “Hanson”) in view of AAPA. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the combination of cited references.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hanson fails to teach a plurality of anchoring elements projecting radially from an inner surface of the wall. Office Action, page 4. The Examiner alleges that AAPA cures this deficiency. *Id.* Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As described above with respect to amended claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), AAPA fails to teach “wherein the second tower segment within its embedded end portion comprises a **plurality of separate anchoring elements projecting radially inward from an inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment**, the **plurality of anchoring elements** being fixedly mounted to the inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment and **being arranged along an axial direction of the second tower segment** to prevent internal force concentrations within the wall of the first tower segment.” As such, the combination of Hanson in view of AAPA fails to teach all the features of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-3 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 4-8 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hanson in view of AAPA, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 2,987,855 to Singleton et al. (hereinafter “Singleton”). Given that claims 4-8 and 14-17 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over Hanson in view of AAPA, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-8 and 14-17 are also patentable over Hanson in view of AAPA, in further view of Singleton.

Singleton describes that anchor studs 11 are welded to the surface of the elongated I-beam 10 such that each of them extends outwardly generally normal to the supporting surface.

In contrast to amended claim 1, Singleton fails to teach or describe “a plurality of separate anchoring elements **projecting radially inward from an inner surface of the wall of the second tower segment,**” as recited in claim 1, because Singleton describes an elongated I-beam having a flat surface 13 for welding anchoring elements that extend outwardly from the I-beam 10.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 4-8 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeremy Schweigert at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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/Jeremy Schweigert/
Jeremy Schweigert
Reg. No. 56,244

Customer No.: 08791
1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040
(408) 720-8300